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SCIENCE :

A WEEKLY RECORD OF SCIENTIFIC
PROGRESS.

JOHN MICHELS, Editor.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1880.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

We consider it due to those subscribers who have favored us with their subscriptions, previous to the publication of our club rates, that they should have the privileges of the list. They can therefore send us subscriptions for any or all of the publications named at the reduced double rates, less \$4, the subscription price of "SCIENCE."

Since the publication of the club rates last week, we have received rates from the proprietor of *The American Journal of Science and Arts* the terms of which are \$6 a year. The club rate with SCIENCE will be \$8.50 per annum.

The material aid given to scientific students by the foundation of twenty fellowships, each yielding five hundred dollars, at the Johns Hopkins University, appears to have been attended with the best results, and the roll of fellows, now published, shows that the honor, thus secured, has not been a mere empty title, for the majority have been selected to receive permanent and attractive posts in different parts of the country.

The system of fellowships at this University was instituted for the purpose of affording to young men of talent, from any place, an opportunity to continue their studies in the Johns Hopkins University, while looking forward to positions as professors, teachers, and investigators, or to other literary and scientific vocations.

The appointments have not been made as rewards for good work already done, but as aids and encouragement to good work in the future, thus stimulating the student to further progress, and becoming the stepping stone to an honorable, intellectual career. Although candidates for any of the three learned professions are not excluded, the preference is given to those young men who are desirous of becoming teachers of science and literature, or who have determined to devote their lives to special branches of learning which lie outside of the ordinary studies of the lawyer, the physician, and the minister.

As an introduction, the candidate must submit his college diploma, or other certificate of proficien-

cy from the institution where he received instruction, with recommendation from those who are qualified to speak of his character and attainments. He is also expected to submit, orally or in writing, evidence of his past success in study, and of his plans for the future, together with samples of his literary or scientific work. Thus the examination is in a certain extent competitive, but not with uniform tests, nor by formal questions and answers submitted to the candidate.

We find that the number of candidates has been very large, and it is feared many were rejected whose acquirements were really superior to those selected. We are informed by the authorities of the University that such a result may arise in cases where candidates rely wholly on testimonials from their teachers, without presenting such evidences of their own work as we have stated to be essential; and in consequence the professors, for want of adequate knowledge, have been compelled to pass over many candidates whose merits were undoubtedly of a high order.

We mention these facts, and trust that in the next year the warning we now give may prevent many disappointments. Candidates should also notice that applications should be made prior to May 13, 1881.

As evidence of the value of securing such a fellowship, we may state, that of the forty-six students who have left the University with that honor, twenty-eight have gone forward to honorable positions, as instructors in colleges or other institutions of a high order; two were attached to the United States Coast survey; two, to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, at New York; four are engaged in the application of science to practical work; two are physicians, one an attorney-at-law, and four are still pursuing their studies abroad.

It is obvious that graduates residing at Baltimore have great facilities for making known their powers to the appointing board, but an examination of the list of those who have been successful, shows that residence at a distance is no bar to the appointment, provided adequate evidence of claims be presented.

The Smithsonian Institution has received from the Vienna Academy the announcement of the discovery, by M. Pennule, at Copenhagen, on the 16th of December, 1880, at six o'clock, of a small bright comet in 18 hours 49 minutes right ascension and 10 degrees 30 minutes north declination, with a daily motion of 5 minutes in right ascension and 40 minutes north.

WASHINGTON, December 17, 1880.